

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT M 00773 080006Z

73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/066 W

----- 122238

R 070450Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 750

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0773

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PINS, PP

SUBJ: BOUGAINVILLE DISPUTE SPILLS OVER TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

1. CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, SOLOMON MAMALONI, WAS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS AS STATING AUGUST 6 THAT SHORTLAND ISLANDS WANTED TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE SOLOMONS AND JOIN BOUGAINVILLE. MAMALONI ALSO SAID THAT THE SOLOMONS' WESTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA, WITH 40,000 OF THE COUNTRY'S 180,000 POPULATION WISHED TO SECEDE. MAMALONI STATED SOLOMONS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE BOUGAINVILLE ISSUE WAS ONE OF NEUTRALITY, AND THAT THE MATTER WAS ENTIRELY "MICHAEL SOMARE'S INTERNAL BUSINESS." HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROXIMITY OF BOUGAINVILLE TO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOLOMONS AND ITS ETHNIC TIES CALLED FOR LINKS WITH BOUGAINVILLE AND THE SHORTLAND ISLANDS WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR FREE FLOWS OF INFLUENCE BOTH WAYS. MAMALONI SAID THAT THE BOUGAINVILLE ISSUE WAS "A HOT POTATO AND ITS INFLUENCES WERE GRADUALLY SWEEPING INTO THE SOLOMONS." HE ADDED THAT FOR ANY GOVERNMENT THIS WAS A TERRIBLE HEADACHE. MAMALONI CONCLUDED SOLOMONS GOVERNMENT "NOW AND IN THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT M 00773 080006Z

FUTURE WOULD BE FOOLISH TO LET ANY PART OF THE SOLOMONS

GO, WITHOUT FULLY DISCUSSING THE IMPLICATIONS WITH THOSE CONCERNED."

2. BOUGAINVILLE SECESSION LEADERS PLAN SEND TEAM TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS TO ESTABLISH CLOSER LINKS, AND DISCUSS A POSSIBLE MERGER. TEAM TO INCLUDE LEO HANNETT, RAPHAEL BELE (MHA BOUGAINVILLE CENTRAL) AND SEVERAL TRADITIONAL LEADERS. HOWEVER, BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, AUGUST 6 DISCOUNTED PROSPECTS OF AN IMMEDIATE MERGER WITH THE SOLOMONS AFTER THE BPG'S DECLARED BREAKAWAY DATE OF SEPTEMBER 1. THE BPG HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR STRONGER LINKS WITH THE SOLOMONS, AND HOPES TO KEEP THIS AVENUE OPEN HANNETT SAID. HE ADDED THAT TALK OF AN IMMEDIATE MERGER WOULD BE UNWISE BECUASE OF THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL LEVELS BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT A BOUGAINVILLE-SOLOMON ISLANDS MERGER WOULD RESULT IN THE WELL EDUCATED, DYNAMIC BOUGAINVILLIANS DOMINATING THE REST OF THE SOLOMONS. POLITICALLY THE SOLOMONS ARE ONLY BEGINNING TO EMERGE FROM THEIR COLONIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BRITISH AND HAVE NEITHER THE SKILLS NOR THE EXPERIENCE TO COUNTER THE BOUGAINVILLIANS. QUITE CLEARLY, NO ONE INVOLVED IN THE NASCENT POLITICAL ARENA IN HONIARA CAN VIEW DISINTEGRATION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS EITHER NOW OR IN THE FUTURE WITH EQUINIMITY.
EASTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM00773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750273-0883
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750873/aaaacmrn.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOUGAINVILLE DISPUTE SPILLS OVER TO SOLOMON ISLANDS
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PINS, PP, (MAMALONI, SOLOMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006